



CASA  
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**Date: March 10, 2025**

**Re: Support for Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 25-02**

Dear Members of the Montgomery County Council,

CASA is an organization rooted deeply in the belief that every person deserves the dignity of safe, stable housing. For decades, CASA has been a tireless advocate for tenant protections, housing stability, and the empowerment of working people and immigrants. We have stood side by side with thousands of residents in this community—fighting not only for fair wages but for creating opportunities that uplift families and secure the future of our workforce.

In Montgomery County, the heartbeat of our progress lies within the hands of working-class families, immigrants, and essential workers. Their labor—teachers, nurses, construction workers, store clerks, non-profit professionals, childcare providers, and countless others—sustains the strength of our local economy. These individuals are the very fabric of our community, and their work is not just essential but sacred. They enrich the diversity that makes Montgomery County both unique and exceptional.

Yet, in the face of a growing housing crisis that affects communities across this nation, we must ask ourselves: How can we keep people housed and ensure that our housing solutions are genuinely just and sustainable for all? As we continue this vital work, we recognize that passing policies such as rent stabilization is a step in the right direction, providing predictability and relief to many. But that is

not the end. To secure the future of Montgomery County, we must build the housing our communities need. We need housing of all types and for every person—whether they are just starting out, raising a family, are in financial strain, or nearing retirement.

We commend the creation of the \$4 million countywide fund dedicated to incentivizing the construction of workforce housing. This initiative brings us closer to the promise of a future where every worker who dedicates their life to the betterment of this community has a place to call home. We are deeply grateful for the leadership of Councilmembers Natali Fani-Gonzalez and Andrew Friedson, and we look forward to working hand in hand with them to ensure that the heart of our community—the workforce—remains at the center of these efforts.

Together, we can build a Montgomery County where all people, regardless of their background or occupation, can live with dignity and thrive.

Sincerely,

*Eden Aaron*

Research and Policy Analyst